



Packers turning season around as Texans step up playoff push

SPORTS, 1B

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Busy time this weekend across Newport County

Will Richmond Newport Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK

The season is now merry and bright and if you haven't had a chance to get and enjoy some holiday happenings then this weekend is ready to fill the void. ● If you're looking for Santa there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with the big guy and deliver your Christmas wishes. Ready for a concert of holiday favorites? Then head over to Jamestown. Maybe a good Irish holiday is in your plans, than a stop at the Museum of Newport Irish History should be in your plans for this weekend. ● If you're not tied up with parties or gatherings check out what's happening and start making your plans.

Jamestown Community Chorus holiday concert

'Tis the season to enjoy home-grown holiday music sung by your friends and neighbors! The Jamestown Community Chorus will provide some musical holiday cheer in its concerts "Drive the Cold Winter Away." The program is an eclectic and festive blend of music, poetry, dance and drama. The chorus, in its 74th year, will sing for the community on Saturday and Sunday.

The audience will get a chance to sing along with the chorus and listen to beautiful, evocative and fun music of the winter season. We invite everyone to stop by and support this island institution.

The Saturday concert will begin at 4 p.m. and the Sunday concert will

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Find Victorian essence at Newport Historical Society and Newport Marriott Hotel & Spa on Saturday. PROVIDED

US unveils strategy on nuclear fusion

Race is on to harness it for clean energy

Jennifer McDermott
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The United States will work with other governments to speed up efforts to make nuclear fusion a new source of carbon-free energy, U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said Tuesday, the latest of many U.S. announcements the last week aimed at combating climate change.

Nuclear fusion melds two hydrogen atoms together to produce a helium atom and a lot of energy, which could be used to power cars, heat and cool homes and other things that currently are often powered by fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. That makes fusion a potentially major solution to climate change, which is caused by the burning of fossil fuels. Still, fusion is a long way off, while other clean technologies like wind, solar and others are currently in use and could be increased.

"We are edging ever closer to a fusion-powered reality. And at the same time, yes, significant scientific and engineering challenges exist," said Kerry, who is in Dubai for U.N. climate talks. "Careful thought and thoughtful policy is going to be critical to navigate this."

Researchers have been trying for decades to harness the reaction that powers the sun and other stars – an elusive goal because it requires such high temperatures and pressures that it easily fizzles out.

Kerry wants to speed that up in hopes of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times, a benchmark set by the international community. He urged nations to come together to "harness the power of fundamental physics and human ingenuity in response to a crisis." The strategy lays out five areas for international partnerships: research, the supply chain and future marketplace, regulation, workforce issues and public engagement. Kerry spoke at the Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum.

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Some fans carry on special psyops for Army-Navy game

Frank Witsil
Providence Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the nationally televised, 123-year football series between the nation's two oldest service academies, Navy has won more times.

But Army, now known as the Black Knights, has a psychological weapon that many of its fans, including several from Michigan with tickets to the game, plan to deploy this week that shows just how deep the football rivalry is woven into the nation's history.

At one time – before Michigan State was a member of the Big Ten Conference, before there were color TVs to watch sports, and before there was the Super Bowl and College Football Playoff

Committee – the Army-Navy game was America's most important annual grid-iron contest.

And back then, the academy teams were among the best in the nation.

In more recent years, both teams have faced changes in college football that have made it difficult to compete with powerhouse universities with more academic, eligibility and recruiting flexibility. And next year, Army and Navy will both be in the American Athletic Conference, which could bring more complications.

But the conference has promised the rivalry game will continue to be played during the second weekend in December; although, it may be possible that

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Rosemarie and Tom Merten, of Royal Oak, Mich., prepare for their trip to attend the Army vs. Navy football game in Boston, buying toy soldiers that they plan to leave at different locations while traveling to the game. Army tradition includes the deployment of the toys with digs at Navy. KIMBERLY P. MITCHELL/DETROIT FREE PRESS

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begin at 3 p.m. Both concerts will take place at the Jamestown Recreation Center, 41 Conanicus Avenue on Jamestown's East Ferry waterfront. All tickets are \$15 and be purchased at the door or reserved by calling 401-207-0771 or via email at cantabile50@gmail.com

For more information visit jamestownchorus.com.

Tour the Eisenhower House

The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management invites the public to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Eisenhower House at Fort Adams State Park in Newport by attending special events being held throughout December, including weekly self-guided tours, pictures with Santa, and a special event vendor exposition. It's the perfect chance to visit this historic and beautiful house to learn about its history, check out the holiday decorations, and view the grounds of the event space.

Join in a free, self-guided tour of the historic Eisenhower House from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. every Saturday in December.

Additionally on Friday, Dec. 15, from 4-7 p.m., Santa will be in residence and is eagerly waiting to receive wish lists and help provide a perfect chance for you to capture a festive photo. Please note that while Santa will be at the house for a photo opportunity, a photographer will not be provided, and all visitors must take their own pictures. This event is FREE, but registration is required.

Victorian Santa

Victorian Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to Newport! On Saturday from 10 a.m.–1 p.m., the Newport Historical Society will host a family-friendly Christmas outing complete with professional Santa photos and kid-friendly activities.

The historic Colony House at the top of Washington Square serves as the backdrop to your professional photo with a 19th century St. Nick. The family admission ticket includes a photo by children's photographer Ashley Richer; photos will be emailed to participants after the event.

Families can enjoy a "kid's tour" of the Colony House's second floor to view the 19th-century courtroom and an 1801 portrait of George Washington painted by Gilbert Stuart. Hot cocoa from Em-

pire Tea + Coffee will be available.

Join the team from Cutie Curls for a kid's Christmas craft to take home and enjoy. A modest fee covers this hands-on activity.

To help celebrate the 200th anniversary of Clement C. Moore's famous poem, the first 30 families who register will receive a free copy of "Twas the Night Before Christmas!"

Advance tickets are required as space is limited. Tickets cost \$40/family, or \$35 for Newport Historical Society members and military families, and they are sold for a one-hour time slot.

For more information visit newporthistory.org/event/a-victorian-santa-event-with-the-newport-historical-society.

Christmas Open House

The Museum of Newport Irish History will hold its 7th Annual Christmas Open House at its Interpretive Center on Saturday from noon to 4:30 p.m. Visitors can view the exhibits while enjoying Celtic holiday music, eggnog and cookies. From 3:30-4:30 p.m., there will be caroling by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Men Singers. Celtic-inspired Christmas ornaments and lapel pins will be available for sale throughout the

Open House, with proceeds to benefit the Museum. Visitors to the Center will learn about Irish immigration to Newport County from the colonial era to the present and the many contributions made to our community by individuals of Irish descent. The exhibits include maps, photographs, and models, including a vintage lighted model of historic St. Mary's Church depicted at Christmas time. Admission is complimentary, but donations are gratefully accepted. Free parking is available on the street. To learn more or to join the Museum, please visit our website or contact us via email.

For more information visit newportirishhistory.org/events-calendar/christmas-open-house/

'Twas the Night Before Christmas reading

The Newport Marriott Hotel & Spa, 25 America's Cup Ave., will host four readings on Saturday of the Clement C. Moore poem by well-known Newporters on this 200th anniversary of its publication. Readings will be held at 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., noon (read in Spanish) and 12:30 p.m. Santa will be in attendance to visit and hear the wishes of every child!

Game

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the two teams could play twice, if the programs finished first and second in the AAC.

What hasn't changed – and some say never will – is the game's pageantry and deeper meaning because it is much more than a football game.

Most years, the game has been played in Philadelphia, the city where the Declaration of Independence was signed, and neutral territory. This year, the game starts at 3 p.m. Saturday at Gillette Stadium, the home of the New England Patriots.

CBS plans to nationally broadcast the skirmish, which is set to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and – for the Navy fans – the 225th anniversary of the first voyage of the USS Constitution.

To fans, the rivalry game is as important as ever.

'Rangers lead the way'

Now, about that weapon.

It is tied to an old taunt – and relatively new Internet meme – that goes like this: "Let's play Navy!" Said no kid ever." The only Navy game kids played had an earwig advertising slogan: "You sank my battleship!"

To remind fans on the other side of the stadium of that, Army fans plan to leave little, green infantrymen – like the kind that came in the Bucket O Soldiers in the movie "Toy Story" – everywhere they go.

"Last year, when we went to the Army-Navy game, we'd find these guys," Rosemarie Merten, 62, recently said, nodding to a pile of toy Army men on the kitchen countertop of her Royal Oak home. She turned to her husband, Tom, and added: "Then, we found out the story behind them, and we said, 'We need to get some for next time.'"

Army – in what their fans would agree was an exhilarating and unexpected victory – won, 20-17, in double overtime.

Will the team repeat? For more than a week, now, cadets and midshipmen have been trash-talking. In some years, they've carried out some elaborate pranks, which, in academy-speak are called "spirit missions." They've nabbed each other's mascots. Navy has Bill the Goat. Army has mules. And more.

On social media, Army and Navy fans, which often includes enlisted folks who never went to college, are trading digs. A new meme this year shows celebrity Kansas City Chief tight end Travis Kelce saying "Beat Army!" In response, Army fans posted a photo of Kelce love interest and superstar singer Taylor Swift, saying "Beat Navy!"

The Mertens – the children of veterans – are strategizing where to put their soldiers as they head to Boston. In late October while visiting their son, who is a cadet at the military academy, they bought a bag of plastic soldiers during Family Weekend at one of the gift shops.

Where will they deploy them? "Definitely at the airport, on the plane, maybe in the Uber on the way over, and the hotel – for sure." Tom Merten, 58, said. "And then probably at the pep rally Friday night, where all the parents, old grads and supporters get together to get pumped up."

The toy soldiers, they hope, will mess with the other side's heads.

Among the real soldiers, the infan-



Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey presents players with replicas of Paul Revere bowls to welcome them to the state for the Army-Navy game during a news conference Monday at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass. From left are players: Navy defensive end Jacob Busic, linebacker Will Harbour, quarterback Xavier Arline, Army linebacker Leo Lowin, and defensive back Jimmy Ciarlo. JIMMY GOLEN/AP



An infantryman deployed by an Army fan at Tampa International Airport in 2022 ahead of the Army-Navy game. PROVIDED BY FRANK WITSIL

try's motto is "Follow me!" And "Rangers lead the way."

Battle for bragging rights

The football rivalry aside, the Army-Navy game – often called "America's Game" – has a long history.

President Thomas Jefferson established West Point – so named because of a point that jutted out in the Hudson River in New York – as the nation's military academy in 1801. The Naval Academy, known as the Yard, was created next in 1845 in Annapolis, Maryland.

And on Nov. 29, 1890, the two academies held their first football game.

The story goes that Cadet Dennis Michie, for whom the West Point stadium is named, accepted a challenge by a group of Naval Academy midshipmen. Navy won – and the rivalry was born.

In 1926, Navy won a national championship.

In 1944, Gen. George Marshall, the Army chief of staff during World War II, purportedly said he wanted "an officer for a secret and dangerous mission," specifically "a West Point football player." His words, now on a plaque that the

Army players touch before games, are a rallying cry.

A year after that, the game was nationally televised and has been every year since.

In 1946, West Point won what it considers its third, and probably its last, national title. And in 1999, the academy officially adopted the team nickname Black Knights, shorted from "Black Knights of the Hudson" because of the dark uniforms they initially wore.

As for the Army-Naval football rivalry now, USA Today ranks it among the nation's top three, just behind Michigan-Ohio State and Auburn-Alabama, calling the game one of college football's "most enduring" matchups.

Athleticism and patriotism

In addition to football, game spectators witness America's military might: jets and helicopters zooming across the sky, paratroopers dropping into the stadium, and the Corps of Cadets and Brigade of Midshipmen marching onto the field.

The pageantry includes a "prisoner exchange," which allows the handful of cadets and midshipmen studying that semester at the other school, to finally "return home."

And this year, each team is wearing special uniforms: The Army will honor the hard-fighting, dog-faced soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Navy will recognize the Silent Service, the stealthy and lethal submarine force.

No doubt, there also will be celebrities and top armed forces brass in the stands, perhaps even the secretary of defense, a West Point grad, and maybe – if the teams are lucky – the nation's commander in chief.

President Joe Biden has attended the game as vice president.

Ten sitting presidents have watched the teams battle for bragging rights. The first was Teddy Roosevelt in 1901 and again in 1905. Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton, and Barack Obama each went once. George W. Bush and Donald Trump each went three times.

And Harry Truman – who wanted to

attend West Point but was rejected and instead enlisted, fought in World War I, and earned a commission as a field artillery officer – went to the game every year while president except for one.

A representation of America

The president most associated with the Army-Navy game is John Kennedy. He was a Boston-area native, a Harvard man and a Naval officer. Kennedy loved the game and the service academies.

As president, he attended two games – sitting half the game on one team's side, half on the other – and was set to be at a third before he was killed.

In a visit to West Point, he reminded the cadets that two of their graduates had become president. In one address at Annapolis, he said that he thought one of the most worthwhile things someone could do in life was serve in the Navy.

In another visit to the Naval Academy, he told the midshipmen: "In serving the American people, you represent the American people and the best of the ideals of this free society." To many, he added, you will be "the only evidence they will ever see as to whether America is truly dedicated to the cause of justice and freedom."

The Army-Navy matchup was so closely associated with Kennedy that after he was assassinated, the game was postponed. There was even talk of cancelling it, until Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, insisted it still be played.

As for this year's game – and Army's not-so-secret psyops – it only seems fair to let a Navy fan weigh in.

"It's a good game every year," said Rick Dupon, 54, of Houghton Lake, whose son is a midshipman. It was a diplomatic response. He is, after all, president of Michigan's Naval Academy Parents Club and has to set a good example.

But pressed for a response to Army's boasts, he didn't hold back.

"Go Navy, beat Army!" he added. "Navy is going to win. That's all I'm going to say."

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